NUMB. CLX.

The GUARDIAN.

Solventur risu tabulæ, tu missus abibis. Hor.

Monday, September 14. 1713.

FROM Writing the History of Lyons, I lately went off to that of Ants, but to my great Surprise, I find that some of my good Readers have taken this last to be a work of Invention, which was only a plain Narrative of matter of Fact. They will several of them have it that my last *Thursday* and *Friday*'s Papers are full of concealed Satyr, and that I have attacked People in the shape of Pismires, whom I durst not meddle with in the shape of Men. I must confess that I write with Fear and Trembling ever since that ingenious Person the *Examiner* in his little Pamphlet, which was to make way for one of his following Papers, found out Treason in the word *Expect*.

But I shall for the future leave my Friend to manage that Controverse in a separate Work, being unwilling to fill with Disputes a Paper which was undertaken purely out of Good-will to my Countrymen. I must therefore declare that those Jealousies and Suspicions, which have been raised in some weak Minds, by means of the two abovementioned Discourses concerning Ants or Pismires, are altogether Groundless. There is not an Emmit in all that whole Narrative who is either Whig or Tory; and I could heartily wish, that the Individuals of all Parties among us, had the Good of their Country at Heart, and endeavoured to advance it by the same Spirit of Frugality, Justice, and mutual Benevolence, as are visibly exercised by Members of those little Common-wealths.

After this short Preface, I shall lay before my Reader a Letter or two which occasioned it.

(Price Two Pence.)

Mr. IRONSIDE,

'I Have laid a Wager with a Friend of mine about 'the Pidgeons that used to peek up the Corn 'which belonged to the Ants. I say that by these 'Pidgeons you mean the *Palatines*. He will needs 'have it that they were the *Dutch*. We both agree 'that the Papers upon the Strings which frighted 'them away, were *Pamphlets*, *Examiners*, and 'the like. We beg you will satisfie us in this par-'ticular, because the Wager is very considerable, 'and you will much oblige two of your

Daily Readers.

Old IRON,

'WHY so Rusty? Will you never leave your 'Innuendos? Do you think it hard to find 'out who is the Tulip in your last *Thursday*'s Pa-'per. Or can you imagine that three Nests of Ants 'is such a Disguise, that the plainest Reader cannot 'see three Kingdoms through it. The blowing up 'of the Neighbouring Settlement, where there was 'a Race of poor Beggarly Ants, under a worse Form 'of Government, is not so difficult to be explained 'as you imagine. *Dunkirk* is not yet Demolished. 'Your Ants are Enemies to Rain are they! Old '*Birmingham*, no more of your Ants, if you don't 'intend to stir up a Nest of Hornets.

Will. Wasp,

Dear GUARDIAN,

'CAlling in Yeſterday at a Coffee-Houſe in the 'City, I ſaw a very ſhort Corpulent angry 'Man reading your Paper about the Ants. I ob- 'ſerved that he reddend and ſwell'd over every 'Sentence of it. After having peruſed it through- 'out he laid it down upon the Table, called 'the Woman of the Coffee-houſe to him, and 'asked her, in a magiſterial Voice, if ſhe 'knew what ſhe did in taking in ſuch Papers! 'The Woman was in ſuch a Confuſion, that I 'thought it a Piece of Charity to interpoſe in her 'Behalf, and asked him whether he had found any 'thing in it of dangerous Import. Sir, ſaid he, it 'is a Republican Paper from one End to the other, 'and if the Author had his Deſerts — He here 'grew ſo exceeding cholerick and fierce, that he 'could not proceed; till after having recovered 'himſelf, he laid his Finger upon the following 'Sentence, and read it with a very ſtern Voice — '*Tho' Ants are very knowing, I don't take them to be 'Conjurers: And therefore they could not gueſs that 'I had put ſome Corn in that Room. I perceived 'for ſeveral Days that they were very much perplex- 'ed, and went a great way to fetch their Proviſions. 'I was not willing for ſome time to make them more 'eaſie; For I had a mind to know, whether they 'would at laſt find out the Treaſure, and ſee it at a 'great Diſtance, and whether Smelling enabled them 'to know what is good for their Nouriſhment.* Then 'throwing the Paper upon the Table; Sir, ſays he, 'theſe things are not to be ſuffered — I would en- 'gage out of this Sentence to draw up an Indict- 'ment that — He here loſt his Voice a ſecond 'time, in the Extremity of his Rage, and the whole 'Company, who were all of them Tories, burſt- 'ing out into a ſudden Laugh, he threw down his 'Penny in great Wrath, and retired with a moſt 'formidable Frown.

'This, Sir, I thought fit to acquaint you with, 'that you may make what Uſe of it you pleaſe. I 'only wiſh that you would ſometimes diverſifie your 'Papers with many other Pieces of natural Hiſtory, 'whether of Inſects or Animals; this being a Sub- 'ject which the moſt common Reader is capable of 'underſtanding, and which is very diverting in its 'Nature; beſides, that it highly redounds to the 'Praiſe of that Being who has inſpired the ſeveral 'Parts of the ſenſitive World with ſuch wonder- 'ful and different Kinds of Inſtinct, as enable them 'to provide for themſelves, and preſerve their Species 'in that State of Exiſtence wherein they are placed. 'There is no Party concerned in Speculations of 'this Nature, which inſtead of enflaming thoſe un- 'natural Heats that prevail among us, and take up 'moſt of our Thoughts, may divert our Minds 'to Subjects that are uſeful, and ſuited to reaſon- 'able Creatures. Diſſertations of this kind are the 'more proper for your Purpoſe, as they do not 'require any Depth of Mathematicks, or any previ- 'ous Science, to qualifie the Reader for the under- 'ſtanding of them. To this I might add, that it is 'a Shame for Men to be ignorant of theſe Worlds 'of Wonders which are tranſacted in the midſt of 'them, and not to be acquainted with thoſe Objects 'which are every where before their Eyes. To which 'I might further add, that ſeveral are of Opinion, 'there is no other Uſe in many of theſe Creatures 'than to furniſh Matter of Contemplation and 'Wonder to thoſe Inhabitants of the Earth who 'are its only Creatures that are capable of it.

I am, SIR,

Your Conſtant Reader

and Humble Servant.

After having preſented my Reader with this Sett of Letters, which are allupon the ſame Subject, I ſhall here inſert one that has no Relation to it. But it has always been my Maxim never to refuſe going out of my Way to do any honeſt Man a Service, eſpecially when I have an Intereſt in it my Self.

Moſt Venerable NESTOR,

'AS you are a Perſon that very eminently diſtin- 'guiſh your ſelf in the Promotion of the Pub- 'lick Good, I deſire your Friendſhip in ſignifying 'to the Town, what concerns the greateſt Good 'of Life, *Health*.. I do aſſure you, Sir, there is in 'a Vault, under the *Exchange* in *Cornhill*, over-a- 'gainſt *Pope's-Head Alley*, a Parcel of *French* 'Wines, full of the Seeds of good Humour, Chear- 'fulneſs, and Friendly Mirth. I have been told, 'the Learned of our Nation agree, there is no ſuch 'thing as Bribery in Liquors, therefore I ſhall pre- 'ſume to ſend you of it, leſt you ſhould think it 'inconſiſtent with Integrity to recommend what 'you do not underſtand by Experience. In the 'mean time pleaſe to inſert this, that every Man 'may judge for himſelf.

I am, SIR,

&c.

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